



The Auxiliary Verbs

College of Agriculture
Department of Agricultural Machines
English_4
Lecture #2

Introduction:

There are three classes of verbs in English:

1. **The Auxiliary verbs** (*be, do, and have*)

these are used to form tenses, and to show forms such as questions and negatives.

2. **Modal auxiliary verbs**

Must, can, should, might, will, and would are examples of modal auxiliary verbs. They “help” other verbs, but unlike do, be, and have. They have their own meanings.

3. **Full verbs**

These are all the other verbs in the language, for example, play, run, write, see, eat, want, etc.

Do, be, and have can also be used as full verbs with their own meanings.

Tenses and auxiliary verbs:

do

1. *Do/does/did* are used in the Present Simple and the Past Simple.

Do you smoke? (question)

*She **doesn't** understand.* (negative)

*When **did** they arrive?* (question)

2. *Do/does/did* are used to express emphasis when there is no other auxiliary.

*I'm not interested in sport, but I **do** like tennis.*

*'If only she had a car!' 'She **does** have a car!'*

*'Why didn't you tell me?' 'I **did** tell you!'*

Be

1. *Be + verb +-ing* is used to make **continuous** verb forms.

Continuous verb forms describe activities in progress and temporary activities.

He *is washing* his hair. (present continuous)

They *were going* to work. (past continuous)

I *have been learning* English for two years. (Present Perfect Continuous)

I'd like to *be lying* on the beach right now. (Continuous infinitive)

2. *Be + past participle* is used to form the **passive**.

Paper *is made* from wood. (Present Simple passive)

My car *was stolen* yesterday. (Past Simple passive)

The house *has been* redecorated. (Present Perfect passive)

This homework needs *to be done* tonight. (Passive Infinitive)

Have

- **Have + past participle** is used to make **perfect** verb forms.

He *has worked* in seven different countries. (Present Perfect)

She was crying because she *had had* some bad news. (Past Perfect)

I'd like *to have met* the president. (Perfect infinitive)

- ✓ Perfect means “**before**”, so Present Perfect means “**before now**”.
- ✓ Past Perfect means “**before a time in the past**”.

Have is used with the past participle to make perfect verb forms.

Have you ever tried sushi? (present)

My car had broken down before. (past)

I'll have finished soon. (future)

I'd like to have met Napoleon. (infinitive)

Having had lunch, we tidied up. (participle)

have and have got

1 *Have* and *have got* are both used to express present possession.

Do you have | *any brothers or sisters?*
Have you got |

Yes, | *I do. I have* | *two brothers.*
| *I have. I've got* |

2 *Have to* can be replaced with *have got to* for present obligation.

Do you have to | *go now?*
Have you got to |

Yes, | *I do. I have to* | *catch the bus.*
| *I have. I've got to* |

3 Only forms of *have* (not *have got*) are used in all other tenses.

I had my first car when I was nineteen.

I've had this car for two years.

I'll have a strawberry ice-cream, please.

I'd had three cars by the time I was twenty.

I'd like to have a dog.

He loves having a sports car.

4 *Have* (not *have got*) is used in many expressions.

have breakfast

have a bath

have a party

have a good time

have fun

have a word with someone

5 *Have got* is generally more informal. It is used more in spoken English than in written English. However, they are often interchangeable.

Have with the *do/does* forms is more common in American English.

Other uses of auxiliary verbs

- 1 In question tags.

*It's cold today, **isn't** it?*

*You **don't** understand, **do** you?*

*You **haven't** been to China, **have** you?*

- 2 In short answers. Yes or No alone can sound abrupt.

*'Are you hungry?' 'No, **I'm not.**'*

*'Do you like jazz?' 'Yes, **I do.**'*

*'Did you have a nice meal?' 'Yes, **we did.**'*

*'Has she seen the mess?' 'No, **she hasn't.**'*

- 3 In reply questions. These are not real questions. They are used to show that the listener is paying attention and is interested. They are practised on p33 of the Student's Book.

*'The party was awful.' '**Was it?** What a pity.'*

*'I love hamburgers.' '**Do you?** I hate them.'*

*'I've bought you a present.' '**Have you?** How kind!'*

2 Modal auxiliary verbs

These are the modal auxiliary verbs.

can	could	may	might	will	would
shall	should	must	ought to	need	

They are auxiliary verbs because they 'help' other verbs. They are different from *be*, *do*, and *have* because they have their own meanings.

He must be at least 70. (= probability)

You must try harder. (= obligation)

Can you help me? (= request)

She can't have got my letter. (= probability)

I'll help you. (= willingness)

(Ring) *That'll be the postman.* (= probability)

Modal auxiliary verbs are dealt with in Units 5, 7, 9, 10, and 11.

3 Full verbs

Full verbs are all the other verbs in the language.

run	walk	eat	love	go	talk	write
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The verbs *be*, *do*, and *have* can also be used as full verbs with their own meanings.

*Have you **been** to school today?*

*I want **to be** an engineer.*

*I **do** a lot of business in Russia.*

*The holiday **did** us a lot of good.*

*They're **having** a row.*

*Have you **had** enough to eat?*

Negative and auxiliary verbs:

To make a negative, add *-n't* to the auxiliary verb. If there is no auxiliary verb, use *don't* / *doesn't* / *didn't*.

Positive	Negative
<i>He's working.</i>	<i>He isn't working.</i>
<i>I was thinking.</i>	<i>I wasn't thinking.</i>
<i>We've seen the play.</i>	<i>We haven't seen the play.</i>
<i>She works in a bank.</i>	<i>She doesn't work in a bank.</i>
<i>They like skiing.</i>	<i>The don't like skiing.</i>
<i>He went on holiday.</i>	<i>He didn't go on holiday.</i>

Questions and auxiliary verbs:

- 1) To make a question, invert the subject and the auxiliary verb. If there is no auxiliary verb, use do /does / did.

She's wearing jeans.

You aren't working.

You were born in Basra.

Ali has been to China.

We have been studying.

I know you.

He wants ice-cream.

They didn't go out.

Question

What *is she* wearing?

Why *aren't you* working?

Where *were you* born?

Has Ali Been to China?

Have you been studying?

Do I know you?

What *does he* want?

Why *didn't they* go out?

2) There is usually no **do** / **does** / **did** in subject questions. Compare:

Who wants ice-cream?

What flavor ice-cream **do** you want?

What happened to your eye?

What **did** you do to your eye?

Who broke the window?

How **did** you break the window?

Short answers and auxiliary verbs:

Short answers are very common in spoken English. If you just say *Yes* or *No*, it can sound rude (impolite). We use short answers after *Yes / No* questions.

To make a short answer, **repeat the auxiliary verb**.

In Present and Past Simple, **use do / does / did**.

Short answer

Are you coming with us?

Yes, **I am**.

Have you had breakfast?

No, **I haven't**.

Mary likes walking.

No, **she doesn't**. She hate it.

Ali didn't phone.

Yes, **he did**. You were out.

Don't forget to write.

No, **I won't**.

English tense usage

English tenses have two elements of meaning: time and aspect.

Time

- 1 The time referred to is usually obvious.

*English people **drink** tea.* (all time)

*Shh! I'm **watching** this programme!* (now)

*I'll **see** you later.* (future)

*I **went** out with Jenny last night.* (past)

- 2 Sometimes a present tense form can refer to the future.

*I'm **going** out tonight.* (Present Continuous for near future)

*The train **leaves** at 10.00 tomorrow.* (Present Simple for a timetable)

*If you **see** Peter, say hello from me.* (Present Simple in a subordinate clause)

- 3 Sometimes a past tense form can refer to the present.

*I wish I **could** help you, but I can't.*

This use of unreal tense usage is dealt with in Unit 11.

The simple aspect

- 1 The simple aspect describes an action that is seen to be complete. The action is viewed as a whole unit.

The sun rises in the east. (= all time)

When I've read the book, I'll lend it to you. (= complete)

She has red hair. (= permanent)

He always wore a suit. (= a habit)

It rained every day of our holiday. (= the whole two weeks)

This shop will close at 7.00 this evening. (= a fact)

- 2 Remember the verbs that rarely take the continuous. This is because they express states that are seen to be permanent and not subject to frequent change.

Verbs of the mind	know	understand	believe	think	mean
Verbs of emotions	love	hate	like	prefer	care
Verbs of possession	have	own	belong		
Certain other verbs	cost	need	contain	depend	

- 3 The simple aspect expresses a completed action. For this reason we must use the simple, not the continuous, if the sentence contains a number that refers to 'things done'.

She's written three letters this morning.

I drink ten cups of tea a day.

He read five books while he was on holiday.

Simple tenses are dealt with further in Units 2, 3, and 5.

Thank you

